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Two INSCOM battalions named Army's best in maintenance excellence

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – Two military intelligence battalions from the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command will be recognized for maintenance excellence during a ceremony here Sept. 18. The 205th MI Bn., 500th MI Group, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and the 527th MI Bn., 501st MI Brigade, Camp Humphries, Republic of Korea, both won the Chief of Staff, Army Award for Maintenance Excellence in their respective categories for fiscal year 2002.

While this is the 205th's first win in the Active Duty Tables of Distribution and Allowance Medium Category, winning the Active Duty TDA Large Category has become commonplace for the 527th. This year's first-place selection is the battalion's tenth win in 11 years, an unprecedented accomplishment since the competition began in 1982.

The AAME, which is sponsored by the American Defense Preparedness Association, is designed to improve, sustain and recognize unit level maintenance programs. It also improves and sustains unit maintenance readiness; assists in evaluation of the status of total unit maintenance operations; and recognizes outstanding unit-level accomplishments and initiatives. Since its inception, INSCOM units have been recognized 28 times in the program's 22-year history.

Participating units undergo two phases during the course of the competition. AAME requires the unit to document its maintenance mission, plans and programs during Phase I, which goes from October 1 and ends September 30 during the fiscal year. All the material is put into a book and presented for review. The second phase consists of an extensive on-site inspection. Only units that are selected as semi-finalists following Phase I undergo the competition's final phase.

As AAME winners, these units also competed in the Department of Defense, Fiscal Year 2002 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award. The results of the DoD competition have not been released at this time.

Soldiers from the 527th and 205th will be in attendance as Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, INSCOM's commanding general, will recognize both units for their achievements during the ceremony, which starts at 5:30 p.m. On September 19, they will join other AAME winners from throughout the Army at the Department of the Army-hosted award ceremony at the Doubletree Hotel in Arlington, Va.